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APPLICATION NO.	ON NO. FILING DATE		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/853,160 05/11/2001		05/11/2001	Satoru Funakoshi	7372/71158	6913	
22242	7590	10/16/2003		EXAMINER		
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120 SOUTH SUITE 1600		LE STREET	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
CHICAGO,	IL 6060	3-3406	1772	13		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Examiner			Application No.		Applicant(s)							
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE Of THIS COMMUNICATION. Elementor of ten may be evaluable under the provision of 30 CR1 135(d), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed. Elementor of ten may be evaluable under the provision of 30 CR1 135(d), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed. Elementor of ten may be evaluable under the provision of 30 CR1 135(d), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed. Elementor of ten may be evaluable under the provision of 30 CR1 135(d), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed. Elementor of ten play sealthed before the provision of 30 CR1 135(d), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply while the stabletory mile the reply and the less than the replay and the specified of reply specified above. The management and the period of reply specified and the removembers, the removed and the commendation, and the specified of the specified of the commendation, and the specified of the specified of the commendation, and the specified of the commendation, and the specified of the specified of the specified of the commendation, and the specified of the specifie		Office Antique Communication	09/853,160		FUNAKOSHI, SATORU							
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2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) Other:	1) Notic	e of References Cited (PTO-892) e of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5)	Notice of Informal P								

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PTOL-326 (Rev. 04-01) Application/Control Number: 09/853,160

Art Unit: 1772

DETAILED ACTION

Repeated Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto et al. in view of Sato et al.

Goto et al. discloses a door trim panel (Figure 7) containing a speaker grille with a plurality of holes (Figure 7, #452). As can be seen in Figures 7 and 8, the resin molding contains a base portion (Figure 8, #30) in which the speaker grille is formed and surrounded by the base portion (Figure 7, #452 and 30). The base portion is formed by polypropylene foam (Column 6, lines 28 - 32 and lines 36 - 38).

Goto et al. discloses the claimed device except for the foamed layer in the base portion having a density of not greater than 0.6 g/cm³ and an average expansion ratio of the speaker grille is 1 to 1.3 times. Sato et al. discloses that it is known in the art to provide a foam layer in a speaker, where the foam is polypropylene having a density between 0.32 to 0.93 g/cm³ with expansion ratios from 1 to 2.90 (Figure 10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary

Art Unit: 1772

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the polypropylene foam material of Goto et al. with the properties of the polypropylene foam material of Sato et al. in order to give the grille high rigidity while having resistance to water and other environmental factors.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed in Paper #12 regarding the 103 rejection of claims 1 and 2 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that there is no disclosure or suggestion of any polypropylene foam in Goto et al., Goto et al. clearly discloses the presence of polypropylene foam and resin as part of the instrument panel in an automobile in Column 6, lines 28 – 32. Even though the polypropylene foam is not the only component of the panel of Goto et al., the open language, i.e. comprising, of the claims allows for other materials to be present along with the foam material.

In response to Applicant's argument that Sato is directed towards a vibrating diaphragm and not a speaker grille, Sato et al. is cited to show that it would be obvious to one skilled to make an article out of polypropylene foam having the desired density and expansion ratios, not to show the presence of a speaker grille. Even though Sato et al. is directed towards a vibrating diaphragm, it is an intended use of polypropylene foam material, and the polypropylene foam material is still used as a speaker grille as shown by Goto et al. above.

Application/Control Number: 09/853,160

Art Unit: 1772

Conclusion

4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L. Nordmeyer whose telephone number is (703) 306-5480. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 7:00-4:30 & alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on (703) 308-4251. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Application/Control Number: 09/853,160

Art Unit: 1772

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Patricia L. Nordmeyer

Examiner

Art Unit 1772

pln

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

19/9/03